

Remarks

Support for the addition of "microprocessor" to Claim 1 can be found in paragraph [0051], line 6; for "independently" in paragraph [0049], line 5; and for "microserver" in paragraph [0055], line 2. The amendment to Claim 2 is supported by Figures 2 to 4,

The abstract was objected to. A new abstract is enclosed.

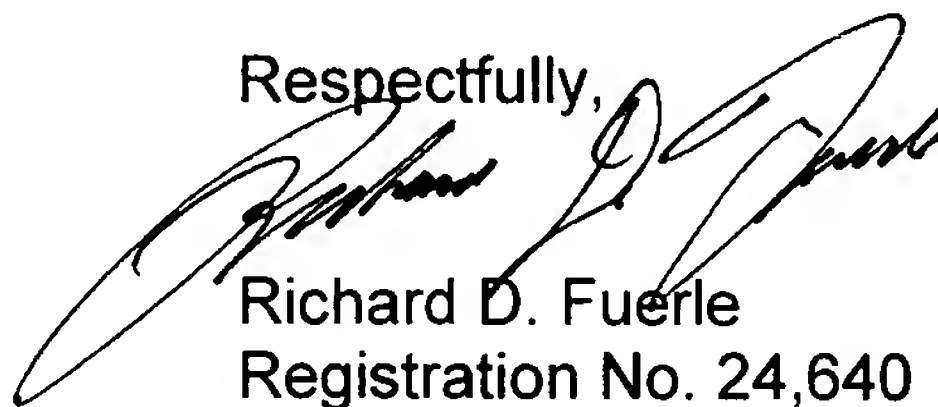
Claims 18, 20, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. These claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. The numbering of the claims was inserted by the Patent Office's electronic filing software; however, Applicant has now changed the numbering.

Claims 1 to 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as anticipated by Crichlow. The major difference between Crichlow and Applicant's current application is that in Crichlow the remote AMR device does not operate independently of the central utility server. That is, usage at the meter is sent to the central server, that information is stored there, and the bill is calculated there, then sent to the meter. While Crichlow does show the use of a PC, that PC is the customer's PC and operates in between the AMR and the central utility server. In the current invention, that PC is eliminated and the AMR itself includes a microprocessor that communicates directly with the central utility server. Nothing in Crichlow suggests eliminating the customer's PC and using a microprocessor as part of the AMR to independently record usage, store information, and calculate costs.

All of the claims are now believed to be allowable over the Crichlow patent and reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims are therefore requested. The Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at (716) 774-0091 to resolve any remaining problems.

A check in the amount of \$50.00 made payable to the Commissioner of Patents is enclosed to pay for the two additional claims added by this amendment.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard D. Fuerle", is written over the typed name and registration number.

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